The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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COLD STORAGE PLANTS BURSTING WITH FOOD

Washington, July 21.—While profiteers and their apologists offering various excuses for the high cost of living, a report issued by the federal department of agriculture shows that cold storage plants are bursting with food and that in one case 173 warehouses report the amount of butter held July 1, this year, was almost seven times greater than on July 1 last year.

Speculators say the war, supply and demand, labor troubles and all other causes are responsible for the high cost of living, but the agricultural department says the real cause is "Frozen Beef—243 storages report a total of 305,174,204 pounds, 171 storages report 83,681,461 pounds, as compared with 56,109,649 pounds on July 1, 1916, an increase of 59.8 per cent. 221 storages report an increase of 4,642,361 pounds, or 4.6 per cent, during June, 1917. 126 storages report a decrease of 28,478,422 pounds, or 25.4 per cent, during June, 1916.

"Cured Beef—268 storages report a total of 34,569,268 pounds. 262 storages report 32,342,907 pounds, as compared with 18,915,105 pounds on July 1, 1916, an increase of 65.7 per cent. 221 storages report an increase of 1,642,361 pounds, or 4.6 per cent, during June, 1917. 126 storages report a decrease of 28,478,422 pounds, or 25.4 per cent, during June, 1916.

"Frozen Lamb and Mutton—121 storages report a total of 3,995,832 pounds. 111 storages report 3,547,225, 744 pounds, as compared with 1,939,175 pounds on July 1, 1916, an increase of 82.9 per cent. 95 storages report an increase of 730,486 pounds, or 12.4 per cent, during June, 1917. 73 storages report a decrease of 357,738 pounds, or 15.8 per cent, during June, 1916.

"Creamery Butter—239 storages report a total of 47,612,490 pounds; 237 storages report 44,632,26 pounds, as compared with 32,384,000 pounds on July 1, 1916, a decrease of 17.1 per cent; 232 storages report an increase of 2,980,637 pounds, or 42.7 per cent, during June, 1917; 172 storages report an increase of 45,762,260 pounds, or 675.2 per cent, during June, 1916."

INHERITANCE BILL SIGNED.

Harrisburg, Pa., July 21.—Governor Brumbaugh has signed the Woodward bill, which places a 2 per cent tax upon direct inheritances, regardless of the size of the estate. In some states there is a graded tax with exemptions to the small estates, but the Pennsylvania act has no exemption clause. Republican exemption, which Governor Brumbaugh insists should be made by the next legislature and approved by the people in 1919.

Powerful interests defeated bills that would tax capital stock and corporations that are exploiting natural resources. In signing the Woodward bill, Governor Brumbaugh said:

"The same influences that clamored for large appropriations now oppose senate committee that chose deliberately to tax the estates of poor and rich alike rather than to tax these natural resources which today are selling at such an advanced price as to yield to owners abnormally rich in dividends and in profits, and rather than to tax corporations which in some instances now extraordinarily prosperous and abundantly able to pay the increased tax. I have opposed the most unfair and against the welfare of all the people."

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Peoria, Ill., July 21.—Typographical union has raised wages of its job members $4.50 a week. The agreement starts the first of next year, when rates will be raised $2.50 a week. On January 1, 1919, the second increase of $2.50 a week will be effective, making the weekly wage $24.

Waco, Tex., July 21.—A three-year agreement has been negotiated by Typographical union No. 279. Hours are increased and improved working conditions secured.

Battle Creek, Mich., July 21.—The Typographical union has raised wages of its members employed in commercial shops to $30 a week. The new agreement calls for a five-year agreement for newspaper printers was recently signed, which was made effective from $28 to $30 a week for afternoon papers and $33 for morning papers.

FEDERAL JUDGE BARRED.

San Francisco, July 21.—The federal circuit court of appeals has barred United States District Judge Bledsoe from acting further sitting in the trial of the government against the Honolulu Consolidated Oil company, which is charged with obtaining oil lands illegally. Judge Bledsoe has been presiding in litigation involving the title to oil lands valued at a billion dollars in the Kern county oil field, and the circuit court of appeals sustained the claim that he could not be free from bias in the litigation because he was a stockholder in competitive concerns.

ACQUITS COAL OPERATORS.

New York, July 21.—A jury in the federal district court has acquitted West Virginia soft coal operators of conspiracy to boost the price of their product. It was said the price raising netted the accused operators at least $18,000,000 in 1916. The trial has been on almost a month and was one of the costliest ever held here in anti-trust case, with the possible exception of the suit against the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad. The total expense to both sides is estimated at more than $750,000.

SHORTEN WORK WEEK.

Cincinnati, July 21.—Steam Engineers' union No. 18, whose members are employed in large plants in this city, Newport and Covington, Ky., have secured a new agreement which provides wages of $4.50 a week and for the first time abolishes the seven-day week. Eight hours a day and the six-day week will be the rule hereafter.

BLACKLIST IN CANTON.

Canton, Ohio, July 21.—Local trade unionists charge employers with maintaining a blacklist in this city as part of a scheme to wreck the building trades council. The contractors deny the non-unionism, which they declare is a sugar coat for the long discredited "open shop" theory.

GOVERNMENT EXPOSES LABOR SHORTAGE CRY

Washington, July 21.—The federal department of labor has dealt a hard blow to "labor shortage" shouters by the publication of reports from 1,000 leading cities, whose officials deny that there is a shortage of farm labor in their respective states.

In response to a request for information on the subject the department received the following replies:

A. L. Barkman, director of employment, United States employment service, Kansas City, Mo.—"So far have directed approximately 2,300 harvest hands. Only one point now asking men and they are being supplied. Have been in close touch with entire belt at all times and believe no point has suffered from lack of help."

W. G. Ashton, state commissioner of labor, Oklahoma.—"Harvest practically over. Had plenty of men. Supply of general agricultural labor has been good. No shortage to speak of."

W. J. McBride, state commissioner of labor, Kansas—"Agricultural labor in Kansas is in good condition. No additional hands needed at this time. Have had very few calls for help."

Wm. H. Lewis, state commissioner of labor, Missouri—"No acute shortage of farm labor in Missouri. Harvest practically over. Supply of farm labor apparently sufficient for needs this year."

John Urick, state commissioner of labor, Iowa—"Agricultural work quite well in hand. Just now no great shortage of farm labor."

George E. Norman, deputy commissioner of labor, Nebraska, states that "2,000 minutemen are taking a vacation in the harvest beginning July 9, and that Municipal Labor Commissioner and Immigration, Pierre, North Dakota, says he "could place 200 good men now."

GAINS BY CARPENTERS.

Indianapolis, July 21.—General Secretary Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners following recent wage gains by affiliates:

Birmingham, Ala., and Denton, Tex., from 45 to 50 cents an hour; South Framingham, Mass., from 45 to 60 cents an hour; Everett, Wash., from $4.50 to $5 a day.

The following unions were organized during June:

Bessemer, Ark.; Gallon, O.; Peterboro, Ontario; Baltimore, Md. (ship carpenters); Monmouth, Ill.; Rock Bluff, Ark. (millmen); Montreal, Quebec (cabinet makers); Batesville, Ark.; Portland, Maine (millmen); Fall River, Mass.; International Falls, Minn.; Brunswick, Ga. (colored); Brunswick, Ga. (white); Bedford, Ky.; Hardin, Mont.; Houston, Texas (millmen); Cottonwood, Ariz.; Johnson, N. M.; Johnson, Vt. (woodworkers); Malta, Mont.; Hicksville, N. Y.; Prescott, Wash.; Bellingham, Wash. (ship carpenters); Attleboro, Mass.; Chappell, Neb.; Mobile, Ala. (ship carpenters); Welland, Ontario; Wrangell, Alaska; Wilmington, Del. (ship carpenters); Junction City, Kan.

CO-OPS. TO MEET.

Staunton, Ill., July 21.—The third annual convention of the Central States Co-operative Jobbers' league will be held in this city beginning Monday, September 10. Rona Ide retail cooperative association from Pennsylvania, where are urged to send delegates, as are labor and agricultural organizations interested in co-operation.

"One of the big purposes of this convention," says John C. Walker, president of the league, "will be to agree on a basis for the establishment of a co-operative bank already established and that new societies may have the benefit of an immediate and ready source of supplies in the things that they use in their business; one that is friendly, to their existence and that will not only supply their material needs, but will help them in every other manner possible."

POLISHERS STRIKE.

Bridgeport, Conn., July 21.—Several hundred metal polishers and buffers employed at the Remington Arms plant went on strike after waiting six months for the company to adopt the eight-hour day. Strikers say that women are paid from 25 to 50 per cent less than men for doing the same work. They demand that all be paid the same rate of wages for the same hours and that overtime be paid for at the rate of time and one-half.

SHOP MEN GAIN

Chicago, July 21.—Federated shop men employed by the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad have secured a new agreement. Mechanics' rates are increased 7½ cents an hour, and helpers' rates 2 1-2 cents. The eight-hour day will become effective the first of next year.

Chicago, July 21.—Federated shop men on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad have voted to accept the agreement negotiated by their committee. Wages are increased and the company will pay overtime for the ninth hour from July 1 until September 1, when the eight-hour day will become effective. Back pay for the new agreement will be paid from June 1.

SECTION WORKERS STRIKE.

St. Louis, Mo., July 21.—Miserable working conditions on the Chicago & Alton railroad have forced 4,000 maintenance-of-way employes to quit their employment on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad, a property which covers 1,500 miles. Section foremen are paid $2 an hour a 10 hour day and track workers receive $1.20 a day. These employes demand a 25 per cent boost in wages, so that we may keep pace with increase, fair working conditions, time and one-half for overtime, free board when taken from their homes, promotion according to seniority, recognition of grievances, double time and the entering into contracts.

WIRE MEN GET INCREASE.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, July 21.—The British Columbia Electric Railway company has raised wages of its electrical workers from $4.00 to $4.50 per day of eight hours. Wire men employed on a monthly basis are increased $5.

WANT LESS HOURS.

Boston, July 21.—The Waterproof Garment Workers' union has voted to strike in over a score of shops unless they grant an eight-hour day. Under present conditions the workers are employed 54 hours per week. They also demand a 10 per cent increase in wages.

UNIONS COUNT MOST.

Adelaide, South Australia, July 21.—The Daily Herald warns organized labor not to take seriously the "fatherly interest" being manifested in union organizations by employers of that their very mouthpieces."

The conscription issue and other phases of the world-wide war has split the Australian unionists on the political field, and they have suffered reverses. Employers are attempting to prove that these defeats mean a disruption of the workers' movement on the industrial field, which they very much deplore, and they are greatly agitated that trade unionism in Australia will disappear unless "it is run right."

While agreeing that political unionism has been given a blow, the Daily Herald laughs at the employers' pretense, "The employers," says this paper, "know full well that even with all the advantages they may secure for the moment in politics, they are doing nothing to injure the workers so long as the latter stick closely to industrial organization. This has been tried and proved weapon of attack and defense and the employers are exceedingly slow to lower one and effectiveness."

The Daily Herald predicts that Australian labor will emerge from its present difficulties stronger than ever.

MEN WOULD AVOID STRIKE.

New York, July 21.—Employes of ship building companies in this vicinity, on strike for a minimum wage of $4 a day, have been offered by Basil B. Mahaney, federal commissioner of conciliation, who denies the charge that employers are taking advantage of the companies because of the war. Mediation efforts were begun, he said, "that the men have tried in vain for over a year to present their claims, but the employers refused to meet with the answer, 'no conference, nothing doing.'

"There is no question involved of union recognition, nor any other question, except a raise in wages to meet the high cost of living.

"The patriotism of the men, up to the present time, has been tested for over a year they have deferred, at every juncture, to the wishes of the government and are now on strike, suffering from a general strike in order that individual employers may be riveted to shipbuilding, by dealing directly with their own employes, to come to satisfactory agreements such as will insure amicable relations and expedite the work of building ships to meet the needs which confronts the nation."

NO H. C. OF L. HERE.

Washington, July 21.—To illustrate the size of profits of the war time, United States Senator Pomerene of Ohio made public the following letter concerning the Ohio Foundry and Machine company, Chicago, in soliciting stock subscriptions:

"Having purchased foundry iron for as low as $12 or $13 a ton during the past 12 months, you know that there must be a satisfactory profit in it at the present market price of approximately $60 a ton. With our eight weeks, you can easily figure what the profits will be when we can purchase iron for the above mentioned $10 a ton and sell it at $40 a ton. A profit of $150,000 a month is well within the limits of our capacity, and a profit of $1,100,000 will be in excess of 100 per cent profit on the entire issue of the present capital of $1,000,000."

"These profits," said Senator Pomerene, "are almost equal to coal oil profits."

CITIZENS MAY CRITICISE.

New York, July 21.—A citizen's right to criticise the government was upheld by Justice Mitchell of the state supreme court in granting a writ of habeas corpus which frees a man sentenced to 20 days' imprisonment for disorderly conduct after he had distributed circulars containing extracts from the United States constitution and the declaration of independence.

Benjamin Nathan, assistant district attorney that the defendant had printed and distributed the constitution and the declaration of independence asserting it is the right of the people to abolish a government destructive of them. Justice Mitchell said:

"Why, that's in the declaration of independence. We all believe in that, and it is what the united press of the country is urging upon the people at the present time. It is what the people have done in Russia."

MILLIONS OF EGGS.

Harrisburg, Pa., July 21.—More than 16,000,000 dozen of eggs, worth at least $5,000,000, were in cold storage warehouses of Pennsylvania on July 1, according to a report by the state department of agriculture. Three months ago the cold storage warehouses reported 164,327 dozen of eggs in storage, but since that time 15,000,000 dozen have been collected by interests which will hold the eggs until the fall and winter months.

The present holdings of poultry are several million pounds above any record for a similar period, the report for a year ago showing 1,665,279 pounds. Almost all of the poultry is held in Philadelphia, as nine warehouses there report 4,327,411 pounds on hand.

Three months ago 22 warehouses did not contain any food products, but the present report shows only nine without holdings.

DEMAND EIGHT HOURS.

Seattle, Wash., July 21.—A special convention of the International Shingle Weavers' union will be held in this city to consider means to secure the eight-hour day in 1918, according to Edward Hall, secretary of these workers to reduce hours have failed and the convention will consider other means, he says, are overlooking no means that may be used to preserve the organization. A limited number of delegates pledged themselves to raise $500,000 to oppose their employers.

TRACK WORKERS GAIN.

St. Paul, Minn., July 21.—Maintenance-of-way employes have secured increases of 2 cents an hour on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad. The contract includes an average wage increase of $3 a month, overtime and improved conditions.

Maintenance-of-way so-called "unskilled" labor and are employed in the track, bridge and building, water service, fuel and transportation, and signal and interlocking service.

UNIONISTS WANT MORE.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, July 21.—The Retail Delivery Drivers' union of this city has asked employers to grant an increase in wages. In case of strike the drivers are out. Model laundry workers are on strike for $3 per week wage increase.

LAWSON CASE QUASHED.

Trinidad, Col., July 21.—The district court has dismissed the charge set John R. Lawson that he murd a miner during the 1913-14 coal strike in the southern Colorado fields. The proceedings were quashed by order of State Attorney-General Hubbard, who said:

"This procedure arose out of disturbed industrial conditions, happily, now have passed. It all grew out of charges filed against operators, who was appointed in a district created by the legislature which was charged at time with being dominated by the miners. Under these conditions he was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. He was pardoned by the governor by the supreme court and Judge ordered not to preside at other strikers.

When the present attorney general took office he did not consider it his section policy of his predecessor.

ARREST MINER TWICE.

Pierce, W. Va., July 21.—Wm. Redmond, representative of the United Mine Workers of America, was arrested at this place when he attempted to stay a strike against the Davis Coal & Coke company, which was charging employees because they refused to work with non-union men. Redmond was taken to the front of the post office and was arrested for trespassing by Mingo county officials. He was released and was also arrested under the vagrancy act. He was released on $500 bail.

With one eye on District Member James Dinsmore, who is pleading the plea to the Italian, Diamond "sparred for time" during the trial of Lefty Lane, the state's attorney, in true melodramatic style, loomed upon the scene and placed under arrest official—until Diana had told the story of the United Mine Workers' policy in the strike.

Diamond and Diana looked like incidents of "all in the day's work" in this section of West Virginia.

BURNS ESCAPES.

New York, July 21.—The state division has reversed the decision of Justice Cohalan for violation of law which forbids one to read or publish without consent the letters of others.

The "great detective" was charged with stealing a letter from and copying letters, appropriate division acquitted him on the ground that the letter was not a private communication. In a dissenting opinion done by the detective, Justice Burns says he was meddling, and seems to have been prompted by a desire to shield him from any disastrous consequences."

Burns was employed by J. P. Morgan & Co., bankers, to do "leaks" in their office.

CULINARY WORKERS GAIN.

Buffalo, N. Y., July 21.—The Men's association has signed a year agreement with their cooks, waiters and waitresses, a verbal agreement with cooks, granting wage increases, one day off in seven, a nine hour day within 14 hours.

After a 48-hour strike restaurant managers have granted the demands of their culinary workers.

Boston, July 21.—After a short strike against leading hotels and cafes this city Waiters' union No. 34 secured one day off in seven for members. The employment of women waiters was also arranged. No change was made in wages. A monthly increase of $1 was secured for the waiters and waitresses, the latter means their union will increase its membership from 400 to 2,500.

INDUSTRY'S TOLL.

Albany, N. Y., July 21.—The state industrial commission has made public the toll exacted by American industry, which are credited to capable actuary of the Ohio commission:

"In the year 1916 there occurred in New York state 307,000 accidents to the United States, 3,000,000 industrial accidents, 20,000 of which were fatalities, or upward of 60,000, the equivalent of one-third of the population of the state of New York. Involved a total loss of 265,000,000 days. This is 250,000 workdays; 3,500 centuries. Computed at the vast loss and only of time of work not done. It is equivalent to the annual work of 1,000 men working continuously for 3,500 years, or through the entire period of history."

NEW COAL MINING RECORD

Philadelphia, July 21.—Shipments of anthracite coal over tidewater for the week ending June 30 have smashed all records, despite the "labor shortage" cry and the persistently heard. Accordding to the anthracite bureau of information railroad companies loaded 2,161,000 tons, an increase over the preceding month of 121,153 tons. This is the first time shipments have exceeded 7,000,000 tons. Compared with June last year the shipments showed an increase of 1,431,000 tons.

LOW WAGES FOR TEAMSTERS

Omaha, July 21.—The reason why the Business Men's association is demanding a reduction in wages for truck drivers is "the open shop"—was shown at hearings of the board of conciliation, which is attempting to adjust strikes in this city.

Teamsters testified that they were paid between $4.50 and $5 a week, and that some companies paid 20 cents per hour, and that a number paid 25 cents used only one hour during the day.

PROFIT IN SUGAR.

New York, July 21.—At a meeting of the directors of the American Sugar Refining company it was stated that profits for the year was more than $30,000,000, or about 30 per cent on the capital stock.

A NEW WAGE TERM.

Adelaide, South Australia, July 21.—The federal minimum wage commission has fixed the minimum wage for unskilled laborers at $4.50 per day of eight hours. The commission has also established a new wage term, "the living wage," which is to be paid to all workers who are not unskilled laborers.

ELECT NONPARTISAN.

Fargo, N. D., July 21.—John M. Baer, Nonpartisan league candidate, has been elected to congress from the First district of North Dakota by a vote almost equal to the combined vote of his two old party opponents. Baer is the first congressman ever elected by organized farmers on a democratic basis, and this victory refutes the claim, made last year, when the farmers carried North Dakota, that they would not "stick."

The Nonpartisan Leader, official magazine of the National Nonpartisan league, says:

"Great credit is due to organized labor and the working men of the cities of the First district. They stood nobly by Baer, co-operating with the farmers to elect their candidate of the producers and the workers."

The league has established national headquarters at St. Paul and is now extending its organization throughout the northwest. It sees the primary elections with telling effect by selecting favorable candidates from all parties and then voting for them at the general election.

$10 MINIMUM FOR WOMEN.

Sacramento, Cal., July 21.—The new minimum wage law, recently announced by the state industrial welfare commission will become effective in 60 days.

It provides that no experienced woman shall be employed in any mercantile industry of this state at a wage of less than $10 a week, or $43.33 a month.

A lower wage is provided for learners, starting with a minimum of $8 a week for those under 18 years of age, and a minimum of $9 a week during the second six months until the minimum wage of $10 a week for experienced workers is reached.

Learners starting work at 20 years of age or over begin with a minimum of $8 a week and receive an automatic increase of 50 cents every six months until $10 is reached.

The regulation provides that no woman or minor will be allowed to work in a mercantile industry more than eight hours in any one day or 48 hours in any one week.

EX-PUBLIC PRINTER DEAD.

New York, July 21.—Charles A. Stillings died in a hospital in this city and his remains were interred in Boston. Deceased was public printer at Washington from 1905 to 1908, during the Roosevelt administration. He became engaged in a row with the Bookbinders' union, whose members refused to work on copies of a certain foreman. The bookbinders appealed to the then president, Mr. Roosevelt, to have Stillings remove them, used the term "open shop" for the first time. Prior to this time David Farry, of Farry, Cleave & Cleave of St. Louis and other antiunionists were forced to stand by their colors, which immediately resulted in the term "open shop," which is the "open door to employment" to conceal their opposition to organized labor.

The term has been handled so adroitly by anti-unionists that it now furnishes a cloak for the most rabid opponents of organized labor.

ASSIST TEXTILE WORKERS.

Chattanooga, Tenn., July 21.—The executive board of the central labor union has called out on strike all of the textile workers' lockout, which involves 1,000 employes. The strike in its satisfactory to the United Textile Workers and its officers. Practically every textile factory in the city is closed down. These include the manufacturers of the well-advertised brand of "Dixie" colors, the Dixie Richmond Spinning company, the Hickajack hosiery mills and the Chattanooga knitting factory.

Behind the lockout is the anti-union attitude of cotton mills, who are supported by the Tennessee Manufacturers' association. Organized labor declares it will support the textile workers as long as the textile manufacturers maintain the position that the employes have no right to organize without destroying their union cards.

MILLIONS WASTED IN COAL.

Washington, July 21.—Fully $500,000,000 or one-quarter of the entire loan bond, was wasted last year in the country through a fuel famine, according to Thomas A. Manning, director of the federal bureau of mines.

He stated that in modern, efficient power plants 20 per cent of the heat value of coal was wasted, whereas in the past 50 per cent was wasted. Last year," says the mine director, "the United States mined 600,000,000 tons of coal, the greatest portion ever witnessed in the world. Of this amount 300,000,000 tons, or 25 per cent, through inefficient use."

UNION TEXT BOOKS.

Indianapolis, July 21.—The state board of education has awarded the contract for supplying text books to Robbs-Merrill company of this city, a union concern. Frank Duffy, of this city president of the U. P. of A., who is a member of the board, said the contract for books on the subject of coal mining would be let to the present time. No practical mining text books have been prepared. It was in the interest of conservation that the Robbs-Merrill company should be given the subjects of industrial and domestic science.

TELEPHONE GIRLS WIN.

Spokeden, Wash., July 21.—Telephone girls in this city and Hoquiam, Aberdeen and Cosmopolis have gone they joined a union, have the company to recognize the union, and to increase the wages. The company agrees that no girl employed in Spokane shall work more than 25 cents a day.

Similar settlement averted a coast-wide strike. In Seattle 1,000 girls workers had voted to strike the night of the girls to organize and secure recognition.

BIKEBREAKERS STRIKE.

Canton, Ohio, July 21.—Negroes are the places of casting chilled iron wheels in the Timken foundry, several weeks ago, became dissatisfied with their conditions and struck. The trade union movement is helping them.

RESTORE OLD RATES.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, July 21.—The Vancouver Tramway company has announced that it will restore the old rates of wages, which were reduced when the company went into the hands of the receivers. The company is now out of the hands of the receivers.

R. R. MANAGERS DIFFER.

Washington, July 21.—"The essence of the railroad situation," said Daniel Willard, of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, and chairman of the committee on transportation of the council of national defense, "is that the railroads of the whole United States are nationalized.

"They have made all transfers of troops on schedule in a manner, so far as I am advised, entirely satisfactory to the war department, without serious disruption of regular traffic. They have tremendously increased the supply of coal cars, facilitated the transit or grain and met the needs of the government and army as promptly and effectually as if they were under direct government authority."

Philadelphia, July 21.—If Governor Brumbaugh does not sign the bill which repeals the "full crew" law the railroads of this state will be confronted by a serious problem, is the statement of the executive committee of associated railroads of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

"When the law originally required," it is stated, "to enable the railroads to perform the big work which is now thrust upon them by the nation demand of them. There is not a railroad in this state which has not had difficult handicapped in rendering full public service."

LAW MAKERS JEERED.

New York, July 21.—"The West Virginia legislature were just 'doing their bit.'" Jeers the New York business men in discussing the emergency act of West Virginia, which provides that every citizen in that state between the ages of 21 and 31 must work at least 36 hours a week "at some lawful and recognized business, employment or occupation."

This law has been used by West Virginia coal companies to break strikes, but the fitness is not worried over this procedure. The trouble of the masses is best expressed in its own language:

"So far as it is designed to round up the loafers, bums and petty gamblers, the intent of the law is good enough. But its wording is amazing. It could be literally enforced, woe to the supreme court justice who finds only four days of work in the week or the day in the summer months, woe to the literary person who refuses to work during vacation season, and to the architect who, finding business dull, cuts his office hours to four a week. But such laws are not enforced. They are not passed for that purpose. The West Virginia legislators were just 'doing their bit.'"

MEMPHIS CLERKS WIN.

Memphis, Tenn., July 21.—The Retail Clerks' union has secured a shorter day for department stores and other shops in this city, and wages have been increased from $5 to $6 a week for women, secured a 57-hour week for women, 60-hour week for men. Christmas, New Year's, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving day and Labor day are holidays the union is conceded.

The clerks are especially jubilant over the increase in wages.

The managers predicated trouble by locking their employes in the stores, declaring they understood the union intended calling a strike. A number of signs were put up against the strikers and they and their sympathizers were ordered to leave the premises. The strikers said the court's order as a boycott weapon and appealed to Mayor Wilson, who has taken steps to see that it is not attempted to be enforced.

The clerks' union refused to meet with the committee of the merchants' association, but Mayor Wilson, who attempted to act as peacemaker. The federal department of labor was requested, however, and an adjustment was reached.

Canton, Ohio, July 21.—Organized machinists report several large firms have accepted their demands for 9 and increased wage demand. Included in the list is the Selna company, which announced a six-cent raise. The new rate would move its plant away from Canton "because of labor troubles."

WANT CHEAP LABOR.

Jackson, Mich., July 21.—The Michigan Central railroad is advertising for 500 women to work in its machine shops in this city. The management is claiming it cannot secure workmen, and Editor Henley of the Square Deal says:

"In all this advertising for help why is it that the corporation is not seeking negroes from the south, or white men from Europe to forge their ensinity and assume the role of mechanic? Do you see many of them advertising for experienced mechanics and offering to pay wages commensurate with their work and the high cost of living? Not on your life. They desire to take advantage of the war situation and yell their heads off for patriotism with a big P—wave Old Glory—and then go out and seek the cheapest labor they can get.

"There is a hue and cry about the labor shortage that is not justified. It is starting in a good many cases as a subterfuge to either start the piece work system, hire girls, increase working hours or eliminate all working conditions secured by labor for the past 50 years.

"If the Michigan Central is so eager to secure workmen why not call back the old employes and pay living wages?"

ROADS SHOW BIG GAINS.

Washington, July 21.—The poverty cry of railroads is not sustained by reports of the interstate commerce commission, the principal of which is the interstate commerce commission.

The earnings of these roads in May, 1917, increased more than $2,000,000 over May, 1916. Eastern roads showed a decrease of $1,000,000, which was more than offset by increases for both the southern and western roads.

Net earnings of eastern railroads in 1916 were $45,599,195; for May, 1917, $46,726,. Southern roads showed gains from $15,153,776 to $15,317,657. Western roads showed a gain from $40,823,419 to $47,757,695.

ASBESTOS WORKERS GAIN.

Philadelphia, July 21.—The local union of heat and frost insulators has signed an agreement with the Asbestos Electric and Supply company whereby wages are raised to $4.25 a day. Also the eight hour workday is established. An increase of 25 cents a day will be paid every year until December, 1919, when $5 a day will be paid. Employes whose work is outside the city shall receive expenses.

CHECK VICTIMIZATION.

Boomer Strikes Kansas Pacific.—While officers of the new union of railroad workers, which has been formed in Kansas City, are trying to secure the reinstatement of the men who struck on the Kansas Pacific railroad, the company is refusing to take back the men who struck, and is filling their places with new men.

PAPER MILL SHUTS DOWN.

Hamilton, Ohio, July 21.—The Champion Coated Paper company has failed to induce the Amalgamated paper makers to return to work under old conditions and has shut down. Thompson has announced that the mill is closed down. The strikers are demanding wage increases and abolition of the bonus system.

The company recently became involved in a controversy with the joint printing committee of congress, at Washington, over the high paper costs which the company insisted for its product. Senator Fletcher, chairman of the committee, had studied the correspondence with this concern on which the committee complained.

"The committee will take consideration to a report from the federal trade commission which has been investigating such paper as was bid upon by the Champion company, had increased their bids on a ton basis from $90 to $200 a ton, a price was jumped by your company from 6 cents a pound, or 120 per cent over the former price.

"The committee is surprised that a company which has been willing to refuse to place its entire product at the disposal of the government, in the event of war, should seek to compel the government to pay excessive prices for the product, now the war actually exists."

A DANGEROUS INDUSTRY.

Albany, N. Y., July 21.—Fully 1,000 tons of paris green are annually produced in this state, despite the industrial precautions are necessary in its manufacture, according to a report to the labor law to guard against industrial poisonings, reports the state industrial commissioner.

Considerable illness has been found to exist among many of the workers engaged in this product, and as a measure to lack of knowledge on the part of those engaged in its preparation and disregard for the deadly poisonous qualities which this salt possesses.

Inasmuch as the workers are unacquainted with its dangerous and poisonous properties many cases of arsenical poisoning are not discovered because as soon as a slight irritation of the skin appears, or nausea occurs, men leave the industry and the danger encountered therein is a constantly shifting one.

KEEP THE SCHOOLS OPEN.

Washington, July 21.—"It is of the utmost importance that there shall be no lowering of our standards of the systems of education," says Dr. P. P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education, discussing education and the war.

"Schools and other agencies of education must be maintained at whatever necessary cost and against all hurtful interference with their regular work except as may be necessary for the national defense, which is of course to be promoted thereby. The cost must be kept constantly in mind and the best-of-way everywhere and at all times."

OPPOSE FOOD MEASURE.

New York, July 21.—The Washington correspondent of the New York World declares that the food control bill, the food bill, which has passed the house is the most vicious piece of legislation.

Meat packers, Standard Oil, reaction, war opponents and senators out for the limelight, because they failed to secure the appointment of friends to certain political offices.

These elements are working in the dark or posing as friends of the bill, "of property ambushed."

UNIONIZE; RAISE WAGES.

Portsmouth, Ohio, July 21.—About 175 sheet mill workers employed at plant of the Kelly Island Lime & Transportation company have organized. The mill has been shut down since April, when the company refused to grant the workers because they applied for a charter from the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. These men have been receiving $2.50 a day. The union has asked and wages increased 12 1-2 per cent.

PLUMBERS STRIKE.

Piper, Mont., July 21.—Union plumbers employed by the owners of the Piper mine contentment at that they will not set aside working conditions secured after years of effort because of the unfair attitude of the mine owners, who believe he is the sole arbiter of

STRIPPERS RAISE WAGES.